MANDATORY RULES FOR NATURE TOURS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES IN PROTECTED AREAS

1. **Nature tours** aim to explore, observe, recognize, and introduce all natural areas of our country, while ensuring the sustainability of natural resources, visitor safety, and visitor satisfaction. Therefore, organizing nature tours without obtaining the necessary permits from the relevant authorities is strictly prohibited.
2. **Permit applications** must be submitted in person or by post, electronically or in writing, to the **General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks** or the relevant **Provincial Directorates**. Applications are finalized within **10 (ten) business days**.
3. Prior to the tour, participants must be informed by the organizers about the **rules to be observed in nature**, and compliance with these rules must be ensured.
4. Within protected areas, rare, endemic, endangered, or potentially endangered plant species must not be damaged in any way. These species must not be collected, removed, or harmed. Wildlife must not be disturbed, eggs must not be collected, and habitats must not be damaged.
5. In areas under strict protection where species at risk of extinction are present, access is not permitted for general safety reasons and for the protection of these species.
6. During tours, activities that may cause harm to wildlife are strictly prohibited. Individuals must not disturb animals or touch eggs. No hunting or sampling is allowed. Birds must not be observed during nesting periods, and photography or video recording is prohibited during these times.
7. **Professional photography and filming** for commercial purposes may not be conducted without obtaining the necessary permits from the Ministry.
8. Travel agencies organizing tours for the purpose of observing wildlife and conducting photography and filming are required to obtain a **Hunting Tourism Certificate** in accordance with **Article 15 of Law No. 4915**.
9. Fees and durations applicable to tours, photography, and filming activities are determined annually by the **General Directorate**.
10. During tours, vehicles must not leave designated routes. If wildlife is encountered on the route, vehicles must wait for a reasonable period and proceed only after ensuring that the animal has moved away, taking care not to disturb wildlife.
11. For visitor safety, the relevant authority issues the necessary warnings and ensures that other required measures are implemented by the event organizers.
12. Regardless of the duration of the tour, visitors are required to take back all waste they generate.
13. Making noise and listening to loud music during tours is strictly prohibited.
14. No activities that pollute the area, damage flora, or disturb wildlife are permitted.
15. Lighting fires within protected areas is strictly prohibited.

16. Wildlife must not be harmed or destroyed.
17. No activities or actions that may cause the loss or alteration of the characteristics of protected areas, or lead to soil, water, or air pollution and similar environmental problems, are permitted.
18. Protected areas are visited within the framework of **"Visitor Management Plans."** However, except for areas under strict protection, visits may be carried out within the rules defined in the plan, provided that safety measures are observed and appropriate equipment is used.
19. In strictly protected areas and in absolute conservation zones defined in management plans, access to natural resources is strictly prohibited, and entry by visitors without prior authorization is not allowed.
20. Visitors to protected areas must not leave designated zones. This is essential for both the protection of natural resources and visitor safety.
21. The conditions and level of use and benefit of protected areas are determined by the administration and must not exceed the carrying capacity of the area.
22. Visitor management, visitor use, and similar practices within planned areas are carried out in accordance with approved management plans and must not exceed plan decisions.
23. In areas where routes are suitable for use by vehicles (such as off-road vehicles), access is regulated by long-term development plans. The use of vehicles outside these plans is not permitted. In exceptional cases approved by the administration, only vehicles that will not harm the environment may be used.
24. Conservation, protection, research, visitor information, and guidance activities in protected areas are carried out in a manner that minimizes negative impacts, in line with approved plans and implementation programs.
25. No activities that may affect or alter the water regime in wetland areas are permitted.
26. In wetland areas, wildlife must not be hunted, released, or collected for any purpose, and no tours may be organized in wetland areas.
27. These rules have been prepared in accordance with **Circular No. 2007/1 of the General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks**. Actions contrary to these general provisions are subject to penalties under **Law No. 2872 on the Environment**.
28. Individuals who violate hunting bans are subject to administrative fines under **Law No. 4915 on Land Hunting** and **Law No. 1380 on Fisheries**. Confiscated products are disposed of in accordance with applicable regulations.
29. In order to ensure the sustainability of natural resource management and wildlife conservation, and to safeguard natural areas for future generations, it is essential to implement the above rules in full, including effective visitor management, visitor guidance, and meeting visitor needs without compromising safety.